



IPA YEAR END NEWSLETTER 2007

The International Pediatric Association is pleased to send this 2007 year end newsletter



which summarizes events during the calendar year 2007 of the IPA, its Member Societies, and some of the hundreds of thousands of Pediatricians of the world. We send our warm regards to all friends and colleagues.

IPA representatives and guests at the Alumni dinner, 25th International Congress of Pediatrics, Athens August, 2007.

Clockwise left to right: Chok-wan Chan (IPA President), Sverre O. Lie (IPA Coordinator), Tomris Türmen (Recipient of the Ishan Dogramaci Award), The Honorable Turkish Ambassador to Greece, Cherif Rahimy (IPA Executive Committee), Elizabeth Mason (Director of WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development, CAH), Jane Schaller (IPA Executive Director), Peter Salama (Chief of Health, UNICEF), Michael Gracey (IPA President, 1998-2001).

January 2007

The IPA year 2007 is off to a fast start

The 97th New Year since the 1910 founding of the International Pediatric Association (IPA) got off to a quick start. The IPA Standing Committee and the Scientific Committee for the 25th IPA International Congress of Pediatrics were busy finalizing Congress planning. Thanks to the guidance of our Standing Committee members and the Scientific Committee led by Professor Andreas Constantopoulos, President of the 25th Congress, the work progressed quite smoothly. The IPA Standing Committee was also busy laying plans for election of its Executives (Executive Director, Treasurer, and Coordinator) to take place at the April Standing Committee Meeting; this procedure was skillfully guided by Standing Committee member Professor Giorgio Tamburlini of Trieste.

IPA participates in the WHO Executive Board meeting

Several events of note took place with regard to relationships with WHO. At the 120th session of the WHO Executive Board, the International Pediatric Association was invited to make a statement to support bringing a resolution concerning better medicines for children to the agenda of the World Health Assembly in May. We were joined in this endorsement by our colleagues from the World of Pediatric Pharmacology represented by Professor Kalle Hoppu of Finland. Addressing issues of making safe, effective, and appropriate medicines available to children throughout the developing and industrialized worlds is a key issue for IPA and of paramount importance to child health and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

IPA and WHO Child and Adolescent Health meet

IPA representatives met with representatives of WHO Child and Adolescent Health to finalize arrangements for a mutual, structured relationship. We agreed on a relationship based on a joint commitment to collaborate on specific issues including pre-service training (teaching and training in pediatrics and child health for all levels of child health providers), quality of care and evidence based medicine (with particular attention to the developing world), and adolescent health. IPA and WHO Child and Adolescent Health will develop collaborative work plans in each of these areas. In addition, leadership of WHO Child and Adolescent Health and IPA will meet regularly to share information. IPA is pleased with this relationship, and we look forward to collaborating with our WHO Child and Adolescent Health colleagues in the coming years.

News from the Haitian Pediatric Society

The Haitian Pediatric Association was busy laying plans for an IPA/WHO workshop in children's environmental health to be held in June. Our Haitian colleagues noted that they had already been in touch with their Ministries of Health and Agriculture, and that there were an estimated 250 pediatricians in Haiti, most of them working in multiple sectors (public, private, academic, NGO). Fifty pediatricians are full fledged members of the Haitian Pediatric Society; all 250 are welcome to attend scientific meetings.

February 2007

The Donald and Elisabeth Hillman lectureship

The Hillman Lectureship was established in Canada to honor Donald and Elisabeth Hillman, major contributors to global child health and long-time friends of the IPA. The first Hillman Lecture was held at Children's Hospital of British Columbia on February 14, 2007. Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta of the Aga Khan University, Pakistan, presented a compelling lecture on realities of maternal, newborn, and child health in the developing world, their root causes, and their possible solutions. The event attracted a wide following.



Zulfiqar Bhutta, IPA Executive Committee Member and first Hillman Lecture

Dr. Elisabeth Hillman, guest of honor, was warmly remembered by many friends. The lecture was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Donald Hillman.

IPA Children's Environmental Health Workshop in India

The second in a series of workshops on children's health and the environment was held in New Delhi, India on February 23-25, 2007. This workshop was the second in a series of three workshops funded by an IPA grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The first in the series of workshops took place in Nairobi for African pediatricians and child health personnel in October 2005. These environmental workshops address a number of learning objectives including identifying environmental risks to children, recognizing and managing adverse effects linked to environmental risk factors, preventing environmental exposures for children, understanding why children are at increased risk of adverse health outcomes from environmental exposures, and appreciating the wide spectrum of environmental hazards. Attendees of these workshops are expected to become leaders within their own communities on issues relevant to children's environmental health, and also to appreciate the particular environmental problems posed by disaster situations such as floods and earthquakes. Workshop participants are invited to take a final examination to qualify as IPA diplomates in children's environmental health.

The Delhi workshop was jointly sponsored by IPA, WHO and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics. Ruth Etzel, Chair of the IPA Program Committee in children's environmental health, took the lead, along with Swati Bhawe of the IPA Standing Committee and her colleagues from the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, and Jenny Pronczuk of WHO, Geneva. The workshop was attended by 44 Indian pediatricians and one representative of the Thai Pediatric Society. The workshop format focused on pediatric diseases linked to environmental contaminants using actual pediatric cases to illustrate both problems and solutions.

Presentations addressed challenges and controversies in environmental pediatrics and discussions of prevention strategies. This workshop was enthusiastically received by the participants, a number of whom subsequently designed community projects in follow-up and submitted reports for presentation at the 25th International Congress of Pediatrics in Athens in August 2007.



Children's Environmental Health Workshop Participants, IPA Workshop, New Delhi

This series of workshops have fostered close collaborations of IPA, regional and national pediatric societies, WHO, the Environmental Protection Agency, and in the case of the Nairobi workshop, the United Nations Environmental Program. We thank Dr. Ruth Etzel for her enthusiasm and skill in leading this effort, and Dr. Jenny Pronczuk for her collegiality and partnership from WHO.

March 2007

The 12th Congress of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association convenes in Sri-Lanka

The 12th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APPA) convened in Colombo in March 2007. Arrangements were excellent and attendance from many Asian countries was plentiful despite recent unrest in the area which had caused the meeting to be postponed from an earlier date. APPA is notable for its wide geographic spread, including countries spanning from Afghanistan all the way to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The Congress was attended by a number of international representatives including IPA President Adenike Grange, President-Elect Chok-wan Chan, Executive Director Schaller and Standing Committee Member Zulfiqar Bhutta, and Patricia Hamilton, President of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health UK.

The Congress opened with a colorful academic procession and opening program, followed by four days of a wide range of presentations referable to pediatrics and child health. Topics ranged from discussions of the MDGs, neo-natal and peri-natal morbidity, mortality in the developing world, and quality of health systems and care, to a number of disease-specific pediatric topics as asthma, medicines for children, renal transplantation,



novel therapies for genetic diseases, and more. Several discussions highlighted issues of ethics in pediatrics and in the conduct of pediatric societies. APPA governing committees met during the Congress, and selected the next congress site as Shanghai, China, 2009.

Chok-wan Chan, President-Elect IPA, Pongsakdi Visudihpan, APPA President and IPA SC Member, Adenike Grange, IPA President

Sri-Lankan pediatrician a leader in emergency care and rehabilitation for children and families of the Tsunami

Professor Manouri Senanayake, a leader in Sri Lankan pediatrics, played an active role in organizing response to the disastrous tsunami of December 2005, and after that disaster authored a book based on Sri Lankan experiences. Professor Senanayake graciously took IPA representatives to visit a small seaside community in the south of Sri Lanka where she had personally provided medical care at the time of the tsunami and helped with planning to reconstruct this community which had been nearly entirely destroyed with the loss of many lives. By March 2007, the community had more than 1,000 new homes, a

community centre, a pre-school, a children's play ground, computer classes for women, and a children's library. A medical clinic (the Rainbow clinic) which evolved from the efforts of Professor Senanayake was waiting to move to a custom built medical centre. A sports complex was under construction. This reconstruction project was supported by a charitable foundation and a special patron from the sports world. It was indeed heartening to see new hope arising from the terrible destruction wrought by this tsunami. We congratulate Professor Senanayake, her colleagues who helped with this project, and all of our pediatric colleagues around the world who rise to the occasion when disaster strikes their families and children.

IPA Standing Committee meets in Geneva, elects new Executives, and adopts concept of Technical Advisors

March was ushered out with meetings of the IPA Executive and Standing Committees in Geneva/Ferney Voltaire from March 31st to April 2nd. The IPA Standing Committee conducted elections for executive positions and approved the slate of candidates nominated by their regional societies to stand for elections to the Standing Committee in Athens. Outcomes of elections for the triennium 2007-2010 were Treasurer – Zulfiqar Bhutta, Coordinator – Swati Bhawe, Executive Director – Jane Schaller. Arrangements and program for the upcoming 25th International Congress of Pediatrics in Athens were discussed, and our colleagues from the Japanese Pediatric Society were congratulated for endowing sponsorships for young pediatricians to submit abstracts to attend the Athens Congress. IPA discussed and approved instituting a new Technical Advisor structure within the IPA; Technical Advisors will be chosen as academic experts in program areas of interest to IPA and will assume leadership of program committees to be constituted for each program area. The importance of relationships with our sister organization of obstetricians and gynecologists (FIGO) was discussed, noting that the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health has brought our organizations closer together.

April 2007

IPA Executive member calls attention to iron deficiency anemia in West-Africa

Many industrious IPA colleagues write and publish academic papers in refereed journals. In April, we welcomed news that one of our Executive Committee members, M. Cherif Rahimy of Benin, had published a highlighted paper in the pediatric blood literature (*Pediatric Blood Cancer* 2007; 48:544-549). His observations have wide implications, calling attention to the prevalence of iron deficiency as a common cause of anemia in West Africa, and demonstrating that successful prevention of anemia can be achieved with inexpensive preparations (in this case oral powdered generic ferrous fumarate), started during pregnancy and continued in infants until three months of age. He noted that due attention to compliance was important. Hopefully this message will be heeded in pediatric and public health practice.

IPA participates in Partner Forum of the PMNCH

The first Partner Forum of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) was held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from April 17-20, 2007. The PMNCH evolved from three separate partnerships referable to maternal newborn and child health in 2005/2006. The IPA has a seat on the PMNCH Board (Zulfiqar Bhutta, Jane Schaller alternate), as do our sister organizations FIGO and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). In addition there are three seats on the Board for academicians, and

four seats for representatives of non-governmental organizations. All told, this presents a considerable voice for civil society organizations within PMNCH. Other members of the Board represent UN agencies, donor agencies, and country representatives. This Partners Forum meeting was the first occasion for all Partnership organizations to meet.



African Leaders at PMNCH Forum. Left to right: Adenike Grange (IPA), Amha Mekasha (Ethiopian Pediatric Society), Jane Schaller (IPA), Francois Tall (President-Elect UNAPSA), Peter Cooper (President UNAPSA)

IPA was represented by Adenike Grange, IPA President; Amha Mekasha, Ethiopia; Francois Tall, Burkina Faso; Peter Cooper, UNAPSA President, South Africa; and Jane Schaller, IPA Executive Director. A total estimated 300 participants represented a wide variety of organizations from all areas of the world.

The Partnership is built on the same principles that our African colleagues from UNAPSA and IPA addressed in 2000 with the Child Watch Africa Conference in Nairobi: stakeholders in child health should collaborate at country level; civil society should play an important role along with country level UN agencies, donor agencies and government; pediatricians, obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatric nurses and midwives, and all other child health personnel should work together. The PMNCH, based on these same principles, has potentially more convening power than pediatricians alone have had.

Ten points were taken away from the PMNCH Partnership meeting by the health care professionals in attendance:

1. Although there has been admirable progress in addressing issues of global maternal, newborn and child health, we have a long way to go in achieving MDGs four and five. Our urgent attention to these issues is a moral imperative for us as stakeholders and for individuals and societies alike.
2. We cannot continue doing business as usual. We need to find the way to make fundamental changes in the ways that we do our business. We stakeholders in

- maternal, newborn and child health must learn to work together as a true collaborative partnership and to speak with one voice in doing so.
3. Maternal, newborn and child health efforts must be country led, country driven, and country owned, with full attention to the districts and communities of these countries. The stakeholders in maternal, newborn and child health who live in countries must be the key players in identifying the issues and the problems concerning maternal, newborn and child health in their own countries and in defining solutions and working to achieve them. This is the only way that sustainability will be built into programs.
 4. Civil society and its organizations have major roles to play in any and all actions addressing maternal, newborn and child health and MDGs four and five through the Partnership, particularly at country level. We have heard this message loud and clear from many stakeholders at this meeting: the professional societies, the NGOs, the academicians, and the many citizens who are here and who care deeply about the issues of maternal, newborn and child health in their own countries and in the world.
 5. There are major health work force issues. Health work forces must be defined at country level and their needs addressed as urgent issues. What kind of work force does a country need to achieve the needed actions to achieve MDGs 4 and 5? How can this workforce be assembled and enabled to do its job? How can we incorporate teaching and training of our health workforce in best practices with evidence base and with capacity for continuing acquisition of new knowledge?
 6. We need to emphasize training in leadership and management of our health systems so that health systems will be able to function and to deliver and to get their jobs done.
 7. We need country level data for planning and for advocacy. This data must be gathered, must be available, must be transparent, and must be sound.
 8. We need to change the way we think about maternal, newborn and child health. It is no longer tolerable to accept the fact that so many women suffer and die in pregnancy and child birth. It is no longer tolerable to accept the fact that so many newborns and children suffer and die before they have a chance to live. We need to learn to frame the health and well being of mothers and children as issues of human development, as issues of human rights, as issues of human equity, as issues of human security. The security and stability of nations will never be assured so long as the human lives of our mothers and children are so cheap. Mothers, newborns, and children are not disposable assets. They are unique human beings. They are not replaceable. They are the cornerstone of our families and our countries, and of the future of our nations and our world.
 9. We need to learn to speak in a voice that will be heard and understood by the public, by the policy makers, and by the leaders of our countries and our world. We must learn to make a compelling case for maternal, newborn and child health in voices that speak together, in voices that are informed, in voices that will affect public policy, and in voices that will demand accountability from the leaders who hold the power to invest in the health of our mothers, newborns, and children in our countries.
 10. Working together we must build into the fabric of society in countries and in the world
 - That women and mothers should live, not die of pregnancy and child birth.

- That newborns and children should live to fulfill their human potential. We know the problems. We know the solutions. We have the knowledge and the skills to address the major issues. Our goals that have been set with the MDGs. We must work together to succeed. The world needs its mothers and children. We cannot afford to throw them away.

The meeting ended with a two day meeting of the PMNCH Board. Information about PMNCH and its various activities can be found on its website: www.pmnch.org.

IPA loses a dear colleague and Standing Committee member

We of the IPA were deeply saddened by the sudden unexpected death on April 19 of our Standing Committee member, John Lewy. Professor Lewy was an academic pediatric nephrologist and long time Chairman of Pediatrics at Tulane University in New Orleans. John Lewy joined the IPA Standing Committee in 2004.



He was a uniquely important person to IPA: an effective leader, a quiet and wise counsel, a well informed, hardworking, and kind colleague. Everyone who knew him admired and liked him. We were particularly touched to realize that he had insisted on coming to our April Standing Committee meeting in Geneva, even though he was scheduled for surgery shortly afterwards, a fact that he did not divulge to any of us. John was one of our most devoted colleagues, and one of our most important members. A memorial lectureship has been endowed in his name at Tulane University.

Professor John Lewy, IPA SC Member and IPA friend and colleague

May 2007

Australasian College of Physicians meets in Melbourne

The Australasian College of Physicians convened in Melbourne, Australia May 6-10, 2007. President Adenike Grange, President Chok-wan Chan, and Executive Director Jane Schaller were invited speakers and participants. The Australasian College of Physicians includes sections for both Pediatrics and Internal Medicine; this combination of professions was forged at the request of the pediatricians and internists some years ago when they decided that they would like to know more about each others' specialties. The meeting began with a formal academic procession and opening session. The program was divided into parallel sessions for internal medicine and pediatrics. The pediatric program was excellent, with academic presentations on a number of issues and topics of concern to pediatricians. Of particular interest was the presentation of a position paper on the health of refugee children. This formal statement describes recommendations of the Pediatric Society for Refugee Child Health and Welfare, and represents a model of the types of position statements that IPA and its member societies could make. We congratulated our Australian and New Zealand colleagues for taking this important initiative. Speakers included Kevin Forsyth, representative of the International Pediatric Chairs Group to the IPA Standing Committee; Jill Sewell, former member of the IPA Standing Committee; and Trevor Duke, a generous IPA colleague who offers his

compendium of evidence based pediatric medicine to the IPA website and is a partner with Giorgio Tamburlini in initiatives on evidence based pediatric medicine. We thank the Australasian pediatricians for their graciousness in including the IPA in their meeting, and for sharing the pleasant ambiance of Melbourne.

IPA participates in the World Health Assembly and speaks out on better medicines for Children

The 60th World Health Assembly from May 14 – 23, 2007 was attended by Adenike Grange, Chok-wan Chan, Jane Schaller, and Cherif Rahimy. We were joined by Kalle Hoppu, a pediatric pharmacologist from Finland who has been working with IPA on better medicines for children. The World Health Assembly is a gathering of the Ministries of Health and government representatives of its 192 member nations. Also in attendance (but not voting) are representatives of UN agencies, donor agencies, and a wide variety of non-governmental organizations (including IPA). The World Health Assembly deliberates and votes on various technical and health matters brought to its attention by the WHO executive board. Any resolution passed by the World Health Assembly becomes a mandate for WHO to act on the issue; thus the World Health Assembly has an important role in mandating WHO action on global health issues. In addition to various discussions of technical and health matters, the World Health Assembly also highlights presentations by the Director General of WHO and distinguished international speakers, who for 2007 were Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, and Ms. T.A. Oboaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. Relevant materials can be found on the WHO website (www.who.int). After each Assembly presentation, each member delegation has a chance to speak; this can be extremely time consuming, but interesting and at times good theatre.

Technical and health matters that came to attention during the 60th Assembly included avian influenza, leishmaniasis, poliomyelitis, malaria, tuberculosis, alcohol related harm, prevention and control of non communicable diseases, oral health, universal MNCH coverage, health promotion in a globalized world, workers' health, emergency care systems, health information systems, iodine deficiency disorders, and better medicines for children. IPA has a stake in a number of these issues including: iodine deficiency disorders (one of the most common causes of mental retardation), eradication of polio (important to childhood immunization), malaria (an issue that IPA has not directly addressed, although a WHO-IPA workshop was held in Sub-Saharan Africa in 1999), tuberculosis control (IPA has been active in bringing childhood tuberculosis into the purvey of the WHO's Stop TB program), alcohol related harm (which needs to include issues of fetal alcohol syndrome), non-communicable diseases (obesity and lifestyle issues), emergency care systems (an issue which IPA plans to address for children in the developing world), and better medicines for children (IPA has been a leader, in collaboration with our pediatric pharmacology colleagues, in moving WHO to include children in its essential medicines programs). Both IPA and our pediatric pharmacology colleagues presented statements, and we were pleased that the resolution mandating WHO action on better medicines for children was passed. Also during the World Health Assembly, IPA representatives met with Elizabeth Mason, the Director of Child and Adolescent Health and her colleagues, and also met the new Assistant WHO Executive Director for Child and Family Medicine (Daisy Mafubelu). We further discussed working relationships with Child and Adolescent Health and issues of mutual interest.

IPA was also approached by WHO leaders concerning participation in the next edition of the International Classification of Diseases.

June 2007

Haitian Pediatricians address issues of children's environmental health

The third in a series of children's environmental health workshops was held in Haiti, co-sponsored by the Haitian Pediatric Society, the IPA, and WHO. Over 70 pediatricians and other child health professionals participated in this successful workshop. The audience included pediatricians, nurses, veterinarians, and representatives from other sectors including agriculture, environment, chemical safety, and various Haitian NGOs. The American Academy of Pediatrics was also a prominent participant, contributing two speakers to the effort. The AAP section on international child health has had a close working relationship with the Haitian Pediatrics Society over the past several years. Materials including the AAP book on pediatric environmental health and WHO resource manual on children's health and the environment were distributed.

July 2007

The Canadian Pediatric Society meets in Montreal

The Canadian Pediatric Society's annual meetings consist of more than 40 sessions, are often provocative, and include numerous preconference sessions which explore recent advances in pediatric medicine. The meeting is widely attended by Canadian pediatricians and colleagues from the United States, and represents Canada's largest pediatric event of the year. The meeting often involves speakers from government or agencies; in 2007 the Right Honorable Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean was the keynote speaker.

The Canadian Pediatric Society has routinely included the American Academy of Pediatrics and the International Pediatric Association in its board meetings. Jane Schaller, IPA Executive Director, spoke to the board about international child health, highlighting IPA activities, the power structure in global child health decision making, and international partnerships GAVI and the PMNCH. She noted that IPA membership includes many pediatric societies from the developing world, and that one of the tasks of IPA is to explore how large and relatively well financed societies such as the Canadian Pediatric Society can find value added from membership in IPA, and how they can best interact with IPA and its wide membership. Spirited discussion of these matters ensued.

The Canadian Pediatric Society has an active Section on International Child Health (SOICH), as do other societies including the AAP and the RCPCH. The SOICH of the AAP has raised funds to provide support through IPA for educational workshops in Africa, and has also provided support for the Haitian Pediatric Society. IPA is interested in hearing from other large societies about value added by membership in IPA, an organization with wide membership in the developing world where there are many good pediatricians but not enough support.

August 2007

The IPA gathers in Athens for a most successful 25th Congress of Pediatrics

IPA was busy during much of July and August preparing for the 25th International Congress of Pediatrics in Athens. This Congress was a great success with more than 4,400 registrants from 153 countries of the world, 2,500 submitted papers of which 370 were selected for oral presentation and the rest presented as abstracts, 1,094 posters, 54 topical symposia, and 17 plenary lectures.



Tomris Türmen & IPA President Chok-wan Chan

A Congress of Pediatric Nursing preceded the Congress, giving an important voice to our pediatric nursing colleagues. One full Congress day was devoted to meetings and presentations of IPA and European specialty and other societies. A spritely plenary section featured editors of leading journals including The Lancet, The Journal of the American Medical Association, The British Medical Journal, and The Archives of Pediatrics and Child Health. Special events included a social initiative where issues of violence against children were discussed, and a concert to benefit AIDS orphans. Plenary sessions highlighted the key global child health issues of the day including maternal newborn and child health and the MDGs. Plenary speakers included representatives of major agencies, editors, the IPA, and our member societies.

Tomris Türmen receives the Ihsan Dogramaci award

Professor Tomris Türmen, a distinguished pediatrician and leader in maternal and child health who has served as WHO Assistant Director General for Family and Community Health, was awarded the Ihsan Dogramaci award. Professor Türmen graciously accepted the award, and spoke to the current climate in maternal, family, and child health, and the need for concerted attention in action to achievement of the MDGs.

Chok-Wan Chan assumes IPA Presidency, Sergio Cabral is elected President-Elect, Melbourne is chosen as site of 26th Congress 2013

During the Congress the IPA Council of Delegates, the representative group of all IPA Members which is convened at the time of our International Congress, met three times. Elections were held for the President Elect (Sergio Cabral of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), regional representatives to be seated on the IPA Standing Committee from each of the seven IPA geographic regions, and the site of the 2013 27th International Congress of Pediatrics (Melbourne, Australia). The 2007-2010 IPA Standing and Executive Committee representatives are: Sanath Lamabadusuriya and Naveen Thacker (Asia); Ahmaduddin Maarif and Enver Hasanoglu (Central Asia); Eva Olah and Armido Rubino (Europe); Fernando Dominguez-Dieppa and Alejandra Jara (Latin America); Hussein Bahaeldin and Najwa Khuri-Bulos (Middle East); Judith Hall and William Keenan

(North America); Peter Cooper and Yveline Houenou (Sub-Saharan Africa); Jose Boix Ochoa (WOFAPS); Geoff Cleghorn (FISPGHAN); Michael Krawinkel (ISTP); Yu-Lung Lau (International Pediatric Chairs) and Mohammad Mikati (ICNA).

IPA Council of Delegates sets standards for two global health priorities

Two binding resolutions were passed unanimously by the delegates: the first adopted an IPA Millennium Development Goal Project which mandates that IPA will encourage and assist its member societies to address issues of the MDGs within their own countries or specialties, and a resolution on breast feeding, mandating that IPA promote breast feeding and adhere to the Code on Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes.



Drs. Khon Kham and Leila Srour of the Lao Pediatric Teachers, strong supporters of Council of Delegates' resolution on promotion of breast feeding

Following adjournment of the Congress, the newly constituted IPA Standing and

Executive Committees had their first meetings. IPA thanks the President of the 25th International Congress, Professor Andreas Constantopolous of Athens and his good colleagues from the Hellenic Pediatric Society for all of their efforts in making the 25th Congress a great success.



IPA EC Member Ahmed Younes and Mrs. Younes IPA at the Athens Alumni Dinner

The regional European pediatric society, UNEPSA, met during the time of the 25th Congress in Athens and adopted a new name, the European Pediatric Association (EPA). The Society has spelled out its membership rules: any European pediatric society representing a whole nation is eligible to join. The Association will also be offering individual memberships to certified European pediatricians. The Association has

established a website: www.epa/unepsa.org. EPA/UNEPSA welcomes members from societies of both Western and Eastern Europe, and is concerned with both academic and clinical pediatrics.

September 2007

Echoes from Athens

Thomas Cherian of WHO vaccines and immunization wrote to thank IPA for “the opportunity to participate in this excellent Congress. It was good that you addressed important public health issues in plenary session, insuring high participation. I realize that practicing pediatricians are updating their skills at curative care but at the same time it is important that they play a more important role in policy decisions in public health. I hope that IPA will continue to do this at future meetings.”

Mercedes de Onis, WHO leader in development of the new WHO growth standards, writes that WHO looks forward to collaborating with IPA in implementation of the standards following discussion at the Congress.

Many other favorable comments on the Congress have been received from agencies and individuals alike.

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)

Dr. Sue Bennett invited IPA Representatives to attend and participate in the 17th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect to be held in September 2008 in Hong Kong. Child abuse and neglect were highlighted in a special roundtable session in Athens led by Zulfiqar Bhutta.

Research agenda planning for childhood tuberculosis

WHO has adopted official guidelines for management of childhood tuberculosis. These guidelines were developed by a subcommittee within WHO Stop TB which, for the first time, specifically addresses issues of children. The IPA was a driving force behind this welcome attention. These guidelines are now to be brought to the attention of the National TB control programs in countries throughout the developing world. IPA thanks our many pediatric colleagues who have helped with this effort: Jeffrey Starke, USA; Phillipa Musoke, Uganda; Zai Fang Ziang, China; Clemax St’Anna, Brazil; and others. Now a draft research agenda for studies in the treatment for child tuberculosis is planned in collaboration with the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Group, a welcome move for all who are confronted with children affected by AIDS.

October 2007

Pediatricians from Bosnia and Herzegovina meet in Mostar

The third Congress of Pediatricians in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on October 24 - 27. Dr. Zeljko Roncevic, President of the Pediatric Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, noted that the Congress site “Mostar is a nice town on a beautiful green river called Neretva”. The Congress was under the auspices of the Federal Minister of Health and the Prime Minister of the Canton of Mostar. The program included presentations on emergency and child health care in poor countries, pediatric cardiology, child abuse, congenital defects, hypothyroidism, development of the human kidney, diagnosis and treatment of congenital diseases, pediatric infectious disease, vitamin D deficiency, diabetes type one, and a number of “free” presentations from members of the society.

In 2004 IPA was present at the First Congress of the Pediatric Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina which formed after the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The First Congress took place in Sarajevo during active siege warfare in a subdued atmosphere but with spirited attendance from Sarajevo pediatricians and others who could get there. Many messages of goodwill and affirmation were read for the record from pediatricians who were not able to break through the Sarajevo blockade to attend. We are happy that the Bosnian pediatricians now can meet together in better times.



Cherif Rahimy, IPA EC Member

November 2007

Angolan Pediatricians meet and are welcomed to future membership in IPA

Pediatricians in Angola conducted their second Pediatric Congress and Portuguese Joint Symposium on Infectious Diseases in Luanda from November 1st – 5th 2007. Professor Mohammed Cherif Rahimy of Benin, past President of UNAPSA and hematologist and expert in sickle cell disease, was an invited speaker. Professor Rahimy urged the Angolan pediatricians to join the IPA; they are now in the process of submitting an application and will be welcomed to official membership in 2010 at the next International Congress in Johannesburg. IPA is always interested in assisting countries in organizing pediatric societies and in welcoming them into IPA membership which will put them in touch with colleagues from all over the world.

Professor Rahimy prepared an account of the Angolan Society and the problems they face, and also an accounting of this particular meeting: There is only one pediatric hospital in the entire country of Angola, a country whose population is 60% children. The hospital *Pediatrico David Bernadino* has 300 beds, and was named for a pediatrician killed during the civil war while caring for displaced children. Over the past six years, the Union of African Pediatric Societies and Associations (UNAPSA) has kept in touch with colleagues in Angola. During the meeting Professor Rahimy gave an address on sickle cell disease, his area of specialty and a significant health issue for Angolan children. He also became a Patron of the *Sociedade Angolona de Pediatrica*.

The meeting was devoted to Angolan child health, and as Professor Rahimy notes: “In summary, not to mention the usual under-nutrition, malaria, and HIV-AIDS problems, Angola is a prototype of the deteriorating level of child health in Africa with:

- Under five mortality rates of more than 260 per thousand
- Routine immunization coverage of about 50% despite availability of a governmental fund devoted to supplying vaccines

- Neonatal tetanus: 72 deaths among 92 cases recorded at the pediatric hospital in 2006
- Neonatal bacterial infections: 239 deaths among 961 hospital infant cases in 2006
- Huge issue with pneumococcal, hemophilus influenzae, and meningococcal meningitis: 3,000 cases per year at the hospital with 20 – 30% mortality and scanty laboratory facilities.”

The Sociedade Angolona de Pediatrica was launched in November 4th 2007; Professor Rahimy spoke on behalf of both UNAPSA and IPA, stressing the pivotal role pediatricians can play to reverse the millions of preventable child deaths and unnecessary suffering of children in Sub Saharan Africa. Angola presently has only about 30 pediatricians, with the majority concentrated in the capital city. 70 residents are in training, and recently the Angolan government has taken steps to increase salaries for pediatricians to encourage their retention. The Angolan Society includes not only pediatricians, but also associate members who also provide child health care.

Our hats off to Cherif Rahimy to reaching out to a neighbor and welcoming a new member into the IPA fold!

IPA participates in Health Care Professional (HCP) workshop in Malawi

A landmark workshop for healthcare professionals at country level convened in Blantyre, Malawi from November 12-16, 2007, under the auspices of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Jane Schaller, working with their PMNCH Board colleagues from FIGO and the International College of Midwives, assisted in writing a PMNCH grant to fund several country level workshops of health care professionals (HCPs) for the purpose of getting acquainted; fostering communications and collaborations at country level between pediatricians, obstetricians, midwives, and nurses; working together for the MDGs; promoting the continuum of maternal, newborn and child health; and giving HCPs a voice with their governments, UN agencies, and donor agencies at country level.



Jane Schaller attended and coordinated for the International Pediatric Association, ably assisted by UNAPSA President Peter Cooper of South Africa. Five countries had been chosen for this workshop (Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda), and two pediatricians (the head of the Pediatric Association plus one future leader in national pediatrics) attended from each country.

Representatives of International, Regional, and National Pediatric Societies at PMNCH Health Care Professional workshop, Malawi

Obstetricians/gynecologists and midwives/nurses had similar representation. Pediatricians, obstetricians, and midwives have not been accustomed to working together routinely or even knowing each other at country level, and it was apparent that most professionals do not feel that they have meaningful voices with UN agencies, donor agencies and their own governments. The UN agencies, a few donor agencies, and PMNCH officials were present, as was the Minister of Health of Malawi and some representation from governments of the other four countries. The program was structured with presentations by country level participants and ample time for discussions at country level. Peter Cooper led one of the sessions, and all pediatricians made contributions. We were proud that the pediatric societies were well organized and provided very useful input throughout this workshop.

Participants of the workshop signed a declaration stating a commitment of health care professionals to work together with other stakeholders at country level towards achievement of the MDGs; to emphasize the concept of continuum of care for mothers, newborns and children; to demonstrate the importance of healthcare professionals at country level; to seek a voice in national health planning and support; and to meet and work together.

This workshop was followed by a second HCP/PMNCH workshop in Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso) in early 2008. At the present time, IPA treasurer Zulfiqar Bhutta is organizing a third workshop for South Asian participants in December 2008. Future workshops in the Middle East and Latin America are also under discussion.



The PMNCH has fostered interconnections between maternal, newborn, and child health and the importance of working together at all levels to achieve Millennium Development Goals four and five. The IPA and our sister organisations FIGO and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) are also committed to this goal, and we look forward to leadership and participation from our member societies at country level and also at regional levels.

Honorable Minister of Health of Malawi and Malawian Pediatrician Queen Dube at PMNCH Workshop for Health Care Professional, Blantyre Malawi November 2007

International Consultation addresses issues of obesity and nutrition

The IPA participated in November in the McGill Challenge, a workshop geared to issues of obesity and poor nutrition in children. IPA has been an active participant in the International Alliance for the Prevention of Obesity and Chronic Disease; the McGill Challenge participation was an offshoot of that Alliance. In addition to nutrition and health experts the event also included several representatives of the food industry including McDonalds, which led to some interesting discussions.

IPA represents civil society of the Board of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

Also occurring during November was a meeting of the Board of GAVI; IPA occupies the single GAVI board seat for Civil Society Organisations, and has been an active leader in the GAVI Civil Society proposals for inclusion of Civil Society Organisations at country level in GAVI immunization programs.

Thomas Stapleton, pediatrician, former IPA Executive Secretary and devoted alumnus of IPA, dies at age 87

Professor Thomas Stapleton, widely known as “Tom”, died at age 87 in November 2007. He was internationally renowned for his vigorous advocacy for better health and well-being for infants and children. He was a loyal servant of IPA for many years which helped him to achieve some of these goals.

Tom was born in England in 1920. His ancestry included a 14th Century nobleman and a senior naval officer who sailed with the famous explorer, Captain James Cook. Tom graduated in medicine from Oxford University in 1943. After war service he had a travelling fellowship to work with Dr James Gamble at the Boston Children’s Hospital. He returned to London in 1950 and worked at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Paddington. This was an exciting time for Stapleton as he worked alongside many colleagues who were to become prominent pediatricians in Britain, Europe, Australia, and the USA. He also made friends with many pediatricians who were later to contribute significantly to the work of the IPA. He moved to Australia in 1960 when he was appointed Professor of Pediatrics at Sydney University, a post that he held until his retirement in 1983.

It was as Secretary General (1965-74) and Treasurer (1974-77) of the IPA that Stapleton exerted his strongest influence on child health globally. Always stimulating, sometimes provocative, even controversial, Tom spread his net to get the ears of world leaders such as Indira Ghandi and Mao Zedong. He travelled the world extensively and very frequently and was well connected to other influential decision-makers, especially in Asia and in Eastern Block countries. His frequent communications with such individuals sometimes aroused suspicion, but his motivation towards improved child health was sincere and his contributions to the IPA were unstinting.

Tom was active in other paediatric leadership roles. He was a founder member of the European Society for Pediatric Research and the Neonatal Society. He also encouraged the development of Regional paediatric societies, such the Association of Paediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APSSEAR), now known as the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA).

Tom never missed an IPA International Congress. Despite increasing frailty, he attended the August 2007 Congress in Athens and was delighted with Australia’s successful bid to host the Congress in Melbourne in 2013.

In his later years, Professor Stapleton retired to his charming English cottage in rural Buckinghamshire. Over the years many of his friends visited with him there. He also provided postgraduate students from Russia, China and many other foreign countries with board and lodging in return for helping him in the house and garden.

Tom Stapleton died peacefully in his sleep at home on 16th November 2007, less than two months after his heartfelt remarks about his long history in Pediatrics and his affection for the IPA were given to an attentive audience at the IPA Congress Alumni dinner in Athens (Contributed by Michael Gracey, 1998-2001 IPA President).

December 2007

PMNCH Board meets in Ethiopia

The Board of PMNCH met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on December 2nd and 3rd 2007. This meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Health of Ethiopia. The 25 board members present at the meeting included three from donor agencies, two from the NGO community, three from the Health Professional Associations, eight from United Nations agencies, three from academia, and five members of the partnership secretariat in Geneva. There was also a representative of the Senegal Ministry of Health as an observer. The Partnership continues to discuss issues related to maternal, newborn, and child health and achievement of the MDGs, stressing the continuum of care concept for mothers, newborns and children, and the importance of major stakeholders working together. As noted previously, Civil Society Organisations play a prominent role in this organisation. Jane Schaller reported on the healthcare professional workshop held the previous month in Blantyre, and presented the Partnership officials with the original copy of the Blantyre declaration with signatures from all of the organisations represented there.

A year end message from our Australian colleagues

A cheerful message arrived from our colleagues in the Pediatrics and Child Health Division of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians: “After careful consideration at the 25th International Congress of Pediatrics in Athens, the IPA announced that the 27th ICP will be held in Melbourne, Australia in 2013. The Pediatrics and Child Health Division of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians looks forward to welcoming delegates from all over the world to this event. Australia enjoys an international reputation for providing pediatric and child health services of the highest standard and the congress program will reflect this standard. Australia is also an excellent holiday destination with plenty of options to tempt delegates in 2013.”

IPA looks forward to celebrating its 100 Birthday in 2010 at the 26 International Congress of Pediatrics in Johannesburg, the first International Congress to be held in Sub Saharan Africa

A year end reminder of the exiting 26th IPA Congress to come in August 2010 where pediatricians from all over the world can meet many of their African colleagues, share knowledge, and bask in the beauty of Southern Africa at the historic 100 year birthday IPA Congress. Be sure to put Johannesburg August 2010 on your calendars!